

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 OFA-01 DLOS-04 L-03 /025 W

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R 272245Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4280

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS SUVA 962

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR PFOR FJ

SUBJ: AMERICAN COMPANY CLAIMS TO PACIFIC REEFS

REF: SUVA 923

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FROM GOF COPY OF LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER FROM SOUTH PACIFIC OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH COMPANY, 11508 YATES FORD ROAD, FAIRFAX STATION, VA 22039 USA, STATING CLAIM TO REEFS REPORTED REFTEL. TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS:

QUOTE WE WISH TO INFORM YOU THAT ON JULY 24, 1975, THE SOUTH PACIFIC OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH COMPANY LAID CLAIM TO ALL LAND WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF LATITUDES 32 DEGREES SOUTH AND 37 DEGREES 30 MINUTES SOUTH, AND LONGITUDES 149 DEGREES WEST AND 153 DEGREES WEST, CONSISTING OF THE FOLLOWING: WACHUSETT REEF, MARIA THERESA REEF, ERNEST LEGOUVE REEF AND THE REEF LOCATED AT LATITUDE 34 DEGREES 02 MINUTES SOUTH AND LONGITUDE 151 DEGREES 08 MINUTES WEST.

THE ENCLOSED DECLARATION OF TERRITORIAL CLAIM AND TERRITORIAL MAP ARE BEING INCLUDED FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES FOR YOUR GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE IN THE HOPE OF A FRIENDLY AND PEACEFUL RELATION WITH FIJI.

TO ENHANCE SHIPPING AND WEATHER FORECASTING, APPROPRIATE FACILITIES WILL BE ERECTED WITHIN THIS TERRITORY, AND ACCURATE CHARTS WILL BE PUBLISHED CONCERNING NAVIGATIONAL HAZARDS IN THIS AREA. WE TRUST THAT THIS WILL BENEFIT
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VESSELS OF ALL NATIONS IN OR AROUND THE VICINITY OF THIS

TERRITORY, WHICH IS PRESENTLY MOST INADEQUATELY CHARTED.

WE INTEND TO UTILIZE THIS TERRITORY FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
THE OCEANOGRAPHIC AND ECOLOGICAL SCIENCES, WITH PARTICULAR
EMPHASIS ON UTILIZATION OF OCEANIC RESOURCES.

SINCERELY YOURS, ARTHUR L. WHIPPLE, PRESIDENT UNQUOTE

2. ATTACHED TO THE LETTER IS A DECLARATION OF TERRITORIAL
CLAIM SIGNED BY WHIPPLE AND BY CYRUS C. TAYLOR, VICE
PRESIDENT OF THE COMPANY.

3. SINCE THE INITIAL GOVERNMENT REACTION TO THE CLAIM
(REFTEL) THERE HAVE BEEN NO FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.
HALL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SUVA00962
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750297-0736
From: SUVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750811/aaaaajwp.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 SUVA 923
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAR 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <29 JAN 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMERICAN COMPANY CLAIMS TO PACIFIC REEFS
TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, FJ, OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH CO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006